

## CLAIMS:

1. A method for sending an audio message (AM) from a sender (U<sub>S</sub>) to a recipient (U<sub>R</sub>) over an audio messaging system, comprising the following steps:
  - collecting a sender's (U<sub>S</sub>) audio message using a transmitting device (2<sub>T</sub>);
  - analysing the audio message (AM) for detecting a control information part (CP) concerning communication specifications of the message (AM) and a main part (MP) comprising the effective message which is to be sent to the recipient (U<sub>R</sub>),  
5 where the control information part (CP) of the audio message (AM) is at least partially interpreted for controlling the audio messaging system (1) for communicating the (specific) audio message (AM);
  - transmitting at least the main part (MP) of the audio message (AM) to a receiving device (3);
  - 10 - presenting at least the main part (MP) of the audio message (AM) to the recipient (U<sub>R</sub>).
2. A method according to claim 1, where the control information part (CP) of the audio message (AM) is at least partially transmitted to the receiving device (3) and  
15 interpreted for controlling the presentation of the audio message (AM) to the recipient (U<sub>R</sub>).
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, where the control information part (CP) of the audio message (AM) is at least partially presented to the recipient (U<sub>R</sub>).
- 20 4. A method according to any of claims 1 to 3, where the audio message (AM) is built up in a defined composite structure in which the control information part (CP) is positioned at a specific position relative to the main part (MP).

5. A method according to any of claims 1 to 4, where the control information part (CP) is identified in the audio message by using automatic speech recognition techniques.
- 5 6. A method according to claim 5, where an automatic dialog between the audio messaging system (1) and the sender is initiated to identify the control information part (CP) of the audio message (AM), if an ambiguity value of a recognition result of a automatic speech recognition arrangement (7) reaches or exceeds a certain ambiguity limit.
- 10 7. A method according to any of claims 1 to 6, where unique identifier strings (IS) are associated with possible users or user groups of the audio messaging system and the control information part (CP) of the audio message (AM) comprises an identifier string (IS) associated with the recipient ( $U_R$ ) of this audio message (AM).
- 15 8. A method according to any of claims 1 to 7, where an identifier string (IS) of a user or user group is associated with identifier characteristics (IC) of the user or of the user group and/or of different members of the user group.
- 20 9. A method according to claim 8, where an authorised recipient ( $U_R$ ) of the audio message (AM) is identified based on the identifier characteristics (IC) before presenting the main part (MP) of the audio message.
10. A method according to claim 8 or 9, where the sender ( $U_S$ ) of the audio message 25 (AM) is identified based on the identifier characteristics (IC).
11. A method according to any of claims 1 to 10, where a situation in which an identified recipient ( $U_R$ ) is currently involved is automatically analysed and the audio message (AM) is presented to the recipient ( $U_R$ ) in a specific form and/or at a specific 30 time depending of the situation.

12. A method according to claim 10 or 11, where an automatic dialog between the audio messaging system (1) and the recipient ( $U_R$ ) is initiated to identify the recipient ( $U_R$ ) and/or to analyse the current situation.
- 5 13. A method according to any of claims 1 to 12, where at least the main part (MP) of the audio message (AM) is presented to the recipient over a user interface (10) which comprises an automatically directable front aspect (17) which is directed to face the recipient during presentation of the message.
- 10 14. An audio messaging system (1) for sending an audio message (AM) from a sender ( $U_S$ ) to a recipient ( $U_R$ ) comprising:
- a transmitting device ( $2_T$ ) with a user interface (10) for collecting a sender's ( $U_S$ ) audio message (AM);
  - a message analysing means (7) for analysing the audio message for detection of a  
15 control information part (CP) concerning communication specifications of the audio message (AM) and a main part (MP) comprising the effective message which is to be sent to the recipient ( $U_R$ );
  - an interpreting unit (4) for at least partially interpreting the control information part (CP) of the audio message (AM) for controlling the audio messaging system (1) for  
20 communicating the (specific) audio message (AM);
  - a receiving device ( $2_R$ ) with a user interface (10) for presenting at least the main part (MP) of the audio message (AM) to the recipient ( $U_R$ );
  - means for transmitting (13, 13, N) at least the main part (MP) of the audio message  
25 (AM) from the transmitting device ( $2_T$ ) to the receiving device ( $2_R$ ).
15. A transmitting device ( $2_T$ ) for an audio messaging system (1) according to claim 14 comprising:
- a user interface (10) for collecting a sender's ( $U_S$ ) audio message (AM),
  - 30 - message analysing means (7) for analysing the audio message (AM) for detecting a control information part (CP) concerning communication specifications of the audio

message and a main part (MP) comprising the effective message which is to be sent to a specific recipient ( $U_R$ ),

- an interpreting unit (4) for at least partially interpreting the control information part (CP) of the audio message (AM) for controlling the audio messaging system (1) for communicating the audio message (AM),
- and a transmitting interface (13,14) for transmitting at least the main part (MP) of the audio message (AM) to a receiving device ( $2_R$ ).

16. A receiving device ( $2_R$ ) for an audio messaging system according to claim 14 comprising:

- a receiving interface (13,14) for receiving an audio message (AM) which is sent by a transmitting device ( $2_R$ ) and which audio message (AM) comprises a control information part (CP) concerning communication specifications of the audio message (AM) and a main part (MP) comprising the effective message which is to be sent to a specific recipient ( $U_R$ ),
- a user interface (10) for presenting at least the main part of the audio message to the recipient,
- and an interpreting unit (4) for at least partially interpreting the control information part (CP) of the audio message (AM) for controlling the audio messaging system (1) for presenting the audio message (AM).